

RESTORE ACT HERNANDO COUNTY



RANKING CRITERIA

OCTOBER 2014

Project Goals

All projects must benefit the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem through one or more of the five goals:

- **Preserve, Restore and Conserve Habitat**
- **Protect and Restore Water Quality**
- **Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources, Springs, Ecosystems and Habitat that is critical to the Gulf Coast**
- **Enhance Community Resilience**
- **Build and Revitalize the Gulf Economy including activities that promote Tourism, Ecotourism and Recreation**

Eligible Activities

- Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring
- Workforce development and job creation
- Improvements to or on state parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Eligible Activities

(continued)

- ⦿ Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure
- ⦿ Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
- ⦿ Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing
- ⦿ Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region

Priorities (not in order of priority)

- ① Protect, conserve, and/or restore native habitats including springs protection
- ② Provide stormwater or surface water quality improvements including the prevention of erosion and sedimentation that may impact waterways that connect to the Gulf
- ③ Reduce withdrawal of potable water from the aquifer
- ④ Create policies, programs, and or mechanisms to remediate environmental and/or economic damages
- ⑤ Protect against future environmental and/or economic vulnerability

Priorities (not in order of priority)

(continued)

- ⦿ Provide climate change/sea-level rise planning, adaptation, and/or related community engagement
- ⦿ Diversify and improve the economy including tourism and recreational opportunities
- ⦿ Promote sustainable recreational fishing and consumption of seafood dependent on the Gulf ecosystem and/or protect or promote working waterfronts
- ⦿ Provide groundwater quality improvements

Scoring Criteria

- ❑ *Projects are scored related to the anticipated benefit it will provide in each category with a maximum of 5 points possible per category*
- ❑ *11 Separate Categories*
- ❑ *Guidelines for scoring each category are provided on the following slides*

1. Restoration and protection of the natural resources (NR), springs, spring runs, groundwater resources, ecosystems, waterways designated as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW), upland habitats that contribute to waterways that drain to the Gulf, fisheries, marine, and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region

0 = No increase in protection of NRs.

1 = Identified NRs to be protected but only projected to create a minor increase to NR protection. No new services provided to the public and no public lands set aside or placed in to conservation easements. Protective measures estimated at 5 years.

2 = NRs identified and will be protected; but lifespan of protective measures estimated at 5 to 10 years.

3 = NRs identified and will be protected. Specific lands to be set aside for protection. Lifespan of protective measures more than 10 years.

4 = New lands set aside and conservation effort engaged. Public education and benefit elements from the resources have been included in the project. Lifespan of protective measures is estimated to be greater than 20 years.

5 = New conservation lands created providing or enhancing wildlife corridors. Actively protects native species especially T&E species or Species of Special Concern; or long term protection of other natural resources such as minerals, archeological sites, etc.

2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources, including erosion and sedimentation of waters that feed the Gulf and improve water quality

0 = No change in current status to mitigate damages to fish, wildlife, or NR

1 = Project indirectly halts any existing impacts to fish, wildlife or natural resources. No action is planned to restore or repair any previous damage that has occurred. Any mitigation will occur naturally and over a long duration. No change in current wildlife or fish status. No long term water quality improvement achieved.

2 = Project intentionally halts existing impacts. Has some limited direct impact as well as long to mid- term indirect impact. Positive impact noted on recreational fishing and wildlife use. Natural resources benefit to a limited degree. Some short term water quality achieved.

3 = Minor immediate impact seen in correcting damage. Fish, wildlife and natural resources damage is immediately mitigated although on a minor scale. Invasive species are eradicated or significantly reduced. Water quality is improved in the short term.

4 = Immediate impact noted. Indirect effects permanently felt. Public health is positively increased to some degree. Growth or recovery from previous damage noted immediately. Economic growth due to actions noted. Long term water quality improvement is achieved

5 = Action results in immediate, long term correction of damage. Public health is positively increased. Invasive species removed. Long term potential to correct endangered or threatened status. Other benefits such as economic growth are realized as a result.

3. Implementation of a federally -approved marine, coastal, springs protection, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring

0 = Does not implement a federally-approved plan

1 = No growth of the current status. Fisheries monitoring created on a minor basis. Recreational fishing areas developed

2 = No growth on status however fisheries status is monitored for greater than the short term. Recreational fishing and other watersports develops as a result

3 = Some increases in the size and scope of the current conservation plan. Fisheries monitoring completed on a regular basis. Seasonal recreational use rises significantly as well as other watersport use.

4 = Conservation plan increases in both size and scope. Fisheries monitoring is conducted on a routine basis with positive results noted. Annual increase in recreational use.

5 = Broad increase in the fisheries development as a result of the project. Monitoring occurs on a frequent basis. Conservation areas are significantly increased in size resulting in a positive impact on the aquaculture industry.

4. Workforce development and job creation

- 0 = Project does not provide any opportunity for additional jobs within the private or public sector. Work can be performed through existing roles or jobs are lost through the termination of a job provider.
- 1 = Project provides an increased backlog of available work for existing workers within the County and maintains the current number of public and private sector jobs.
- 2 = Project demands that part-time jobs be created to perform necessary work within the project schedule
- 3 = Project creates 5-10 full-time positions which are necessary to perform work related to the project within the schedule determined for project execution. Upon project completion, 1-5 jobs (part-time or full-time) are created to staff any long-term result of the project.
- 4 = Project provides for the creation of 20-30 jobs related to the construction/implementation of the project or as a result of the project's completion. Upon project completion, 6 or more jobs (part-time or full-time) are created to staff any long-term result of the project.
- 5 = Project provides a significant increase of jobs provided by an entire industry.

5. Improvements to or on State parks or County recreation areas located in coastal areas or waterways and rivers that drain to the Gulf

- 0 = Project does not provide any benefits or improvements to a State Park or county recreation
- 1 = A portion of the project indirectly provides benefits to a State Park or county recreation
- 2 = Less than 50% of the project directly provides improvements to a State Park or county recreation
- 3 = Less than 50% of the project directly provides improvements to a State Park or county recreation; and the project is not specifically designed for the purpose of improving the impacted portions of the State Park or county recreation.
- 4 = A significant portion of the project (more than 75%) directly provides improvements to a State Park or county recreation; and the project is specifically designed for the purpose of improving the impacted portions of the State Park or county recreation.
- 5 = A significant portion of the project (more than 75%) directly provides improvements to a State Park or county recreation; and the project is specifically designed for the purpose of improving the impacted portions of the State Park or county recreation.

6. Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy (including port infrastructure and projects that increase access to recreational opportunities) or ecological resources, springs protection, or groundwater protection

- 0 = Project has a negative impact to the economy or has no net positive benefit to the local economy. Project does not benefit ecological resources.
- 1 = Project provides an indirect, revenue generating mechanism for either the public or private sector. Growth provided in the short term with no sustainable effects. Impact upon ecological preservation or protection is minimal.
- 2 = Project provides a direct revenue generator that bolsters the local economy but not significantly. No specific local industry become more robust through job creation, increased revenue, or increased patronage; however project results in an increase in local jobs. Project promotes habitat preservation or protection which can lead to increased benefits to the local economy.
- 3 = Project provides a direct revenue generator that bolsters the local economy more significantly. One specific local industry becomes more robust through job creation, increased revenue, or increased patronage and there is a projected increase in other local jobs. Promotes habitat preservation or protection which can lead to economic impact.
- 4 = Project provides a direct revenue generator that bolsters the local economy significantly. One or more specific local industries become more robust through job creation, increased revenue, or increased patronage and there is a projected increase in other local jobs. Some new long-term residents are projected. Habitat protection directly related to tourism or increased quality of life
- 5 = Project provides a sustainable revenue generator that significantly bolsters the local economy with two or more local industries becoming more robust through job creation, increased revenue, or increased patronage. Project results in a definite an increase in local, long-term residents. Habitat protection has long term benefits for tourism or increased quality of life.

7. Coastal flood protection and the preservation of habitat in flood zones, coastal surge areas and floodways

- 0 = Project does not reduce flood protection or habitat preservation to a portion of the community nor has no net increase in flood protection to a known flood prone area.
- 1 = Project identifies areas potentially affect by floods but provides no measure for increasing the flood protection for those areas; or project may indirectly provide minor benefit to flood prone area.
- 2 = Project identifies areas potentially affect by floods and provides means for measuring the increase in flood protection for those areas (Level of Service [LOS]); or project may indirectly provide a fairly significant LOS benefit to flood prone area.
- 3 = Project identifies areas potentially affect by floods; and there is more than 50% increase in the LOS to a large flood prone area (more than 100 residents) or a 75% increase to an area with less than 100 residents.
- 4 = Project identifies areas potentially affect by floods; and there is more than 75% increase in the LOS protection to a large flood prone area (more than 100 residents) or a 90% increase to an area with less than 100 residents.
- 5 = The project's primary goal is to improve stormwater level of service for the local community. The project includes sustainable solutions that include long term, large scale drainage improvements that do improve known flood prone areas to acceptable LOS with 90% LOS improvement to large scale (more than 100 residents).

8. Projects (including infrastructure development) that promote tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including promotion of recreational fishing, swimming, bird watching, passive recreation and kayaking

0 = Does nothing to promote Tourism or recreational opportunities

1 = Project spending anticipated having little effect on tourism or increasing access to recreational opportunities. Impact may be short term.

2 = Some effect on tourism or recreation expected on a seasonal basis. Some economic income for the local area or city created as well as for small businesses.

3 = Multi-seasonal impact. Generates some significant economic income and enhances recreational opportunities for tourists and residents.

4 = Multi seasonal to year round impact. New generation of economic income created. Recreational opportunities are regional and benefits seasonal or tourist population.

5 = Year round draw of new people to the area. Recreational opportunities contribute to quality of life long term. Large amounts of economic income created. Entire county benefits.

9. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region and projects that provide or benefit marine habitat

- 0 = No additional seafood consumption created or project has the potential to negatively impact the seafood industry.
- 1 = Small amount of seafood consumption created. Anticipated that the local seafood market increases sales of seafood consumption by less than 5% and catch rates do not increase noticeably. Minor increase in marine habitat.
- 2 = Increased amount of seafood consumption created (more than 5%). Little positive effect on the seafood industry occurs, in general, but catch rates increase some.
- 3 = Noticeable positive effect on the seafood industry. More than 10% increase in seafood consumption anticipated. Includes habitat restoration and anticipated increase in catch rates of identified species by 5% or more.
- 4 = Industry growth experienced. Some positive effect on the local economy seen because of seafood consumption increase. Anticipated increase more than 15%. Catch rates of identified species more than 10%.
- 5 = Industry experiences new growth and invigoration. Measurable positive impact on the economy as evident by more than 20% increase in seafood consumption. Significant increase in the catch rate and production of new seafood products (by more than 15% in identified species).

10. Project Funding Match

0 = No matching funds will be provided

1 = 10% matching funds will be provided from a source other than RESTORE Act

2 = 20% matching funds will be provided from a source other than RESTORE Act

3 = 30% matching funds will be provided from a source other than RESTORE Act

4 = 40% matching funds will be provided from a source other than RESTORE Act

5 = 50% matching funds will be provided from a source other than RESTORE Act

11. Project Timing

- 1 = Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized more than 10 years away
- 2 = Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 6-10 years away.
- 3 = Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 4-6 years away.
- 4 = Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 2-4 years away.
- 5 = Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 0-2 years away.



Need More Information

For details about potential projects visit:

www.HernandoCounty.us/restoreact